

The regular bi-weekly meeting of the Carbonate Historical Society and Museum, Inc. was held at 7:30 pm, 6 July, 1984, in Room 301, Carbonate City Hall. 15 members were in attendance.

After a reading of the minutes by the Society's Secretary, Robert J. Jomaine, S. Robert Powell, PhD, President of the Society gave a brief explanation as the purpose of such detailed minutes. In essence, he explained, the minute book is the chronicle of the activities of the Society, and should, therefore, contain as much information as possible.

Several connections to the minutes as read were then noted, the first being that the Dine Museum during Pioneer Days will open on Sunday, rather than Monday, as had been stated. This correction was brought to light by John Klimkiewicz. Marion Essif then pointed out the fact that there is a problem at present in regard to running the Society's videotapes on the Adams Cable TV system, and that the minutes of the previous meeting did not accurately reflect this. Mr. Essif stated that the problem could probably be resolved.

Dr. Powell and Mr. Jomaine assured the membership that the minute book would include the proper corrections.

Dr. Powell then gave a summary report on the completion of the roof project on City Hall. He opined that this is the most significant project that the Society has completed to date, since in effect, the Society has spent \$17,200 on repairs to a building it does not own. As had been previously explained, the repairs included a new roof on the south side of the two story wing, repairs to the windows on the second and third floors, mortar and brick work, flashing replacement, and several miscellaneous repairs. The final report on the project to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission included all required information, and was mailed on 3 July.

In the report, the PHMC was informed of other areas on the building needing repairs and/or other attention. Dr. Powell stated that the most significant known problem area is the supporting brickwork beneath the roof on the two story wing. He explained the problem as having originated in the 1892 renovations to the building, at which time, the roof on what is today the rear section of the structure was raised in order to make room for the proposed third floor. It would seem that the quality of workmanship on the new sections of the walls was somewhat inferior, and that this has caused the mortar to deteriorate to the point where, today, it is essentially a powder. Therefore, the bricks are merely stacked on top of the ones below, with only a layer of this powder between.

At this point, Dr. Powell requested that the minutes be changed to reflect the fact that the correct cost of necessary repairs to correct the condition would be \$150,000 and not \$50,000, as had been previously stated in the minutes.

Dr. Powell went on to explain that another problem with the structure, the tower roof, was also described to the PHMC in the report, although this is not as serious a concern as the lack of mortar in the upper section of the two story wing.

The proper state and federal-level officials have been notified, said Dr. Powell,

so that the Society will have gone on record as having recognized and attempted to solve the problem. The Department of Community Affairs has also been contacted, he added, and have informed the Society of their "Imminent Threat" program. Unfortunately, the problem with City Hall, at present, is not eligible for funding under the program, since City Hall is municipally owned. If the structure were owned by the Society, it is believed that DCA would be able to help. Thus, the possibility of the Society obtaining the building, from the City of Carbonate has been raised.

This would allow the City to move into more reasonably-sized quarters, and at the same time, it would aid the Society in establishment of a permanent museum. It was noted, however, that the City claims that heating of City Hall costs \$42,000 per year, and indeed feels that this is a prime reason for wishing to abandon the structure. The matter, however, is somewhat moot, since the idea has only been talked about thus far.

Dr. Powell then stated that on 27 June, he had lent the Society \$2000. The loan, he explained, was necessitated by the fact that unexpected costs had been incurred during the stabilization work on City Hall, particularly, the \$500 which had to be paid to Tom Clark in order for the Society to break the contract with him for roof repairs.

The breaking of the contract was required due to the fact that Clark had been unable to even begin the repairs as promised, and thus was causing the Society to risk losing its funding from the PHMC. Ergo, the contract, which had been written by Clark and required him to actually do nothing at all, was potentially catastrophic to the Society and it was agreed that it should be bought out for the \$500 demanded by Clark.

Since the Society had already borrowed funds for the project from the Liberty Discount and Savings Bank and the First National Bank of Carbonate, several possibilities had been discussed, including such a loan as the one from Dr. Powell, to be repaid as funds become available to the Society.

Miss Susan Stephens then noted that the 50-50 raffle being sponsored by the Society as a fundraiser is proceeding. She explained that she was uncertain of the number of returns to this point, but stated that she would compute the totals after the meeting.

Miss Stephens went on to say that she had singlehandedly gotten the Carbonate City Council meeting date changed from 16 July to 23 July, due the conflict with the concert by the Crystal Band in Memorial Park on the 16th. Dr. Powell noted that at the rescheduled council meeting, the Society would officially present the newly completed roof to the City, and added that Hank Loftus would also commemorate the roof on the same date.

Also on the subject of the concert, it was noted that City Officials must be contacted regarding the blocking off of the streets around the park, and that Dr. Powell will announce the concert, serving as master of ceremonies.

Mr. Loftus noted that the band needs a space to park its truck, and 40 chairs. He added that power is also required, and stands for the speakers. Mr. Loftus also

requested that Mr. Jomaine inform the Carbonate News that the concert is scheduled for 7 pm, and not 7:30, as the News had erroneously reported. Mr. Loftus also asked that the various media be made aware of the main location, Fellowship Hall, and the necessity of bringing chairs. Mr. Jomaine stated that he would attend to the matter. Mr. Essif also informed the membership that he would contact WJOL/WJSP regarding a public service announcement about the concert.

Speaking for the flowerbox committee, Dr. Powell announced that on 26 June, he, Mr. Klimkiewicz, Jean Colville, and June Birch had installed the flowerboxes in their proper locations, after purchasing flowers from Hemelstein's. Mr. Klimkiewicz then stated that \$85.00 had been collected, and the Society is awaiting payments totalling \$35.00. Expenses incurred this year were \$71.40. Mr. Klimkiewicz also noted the fact that there exists the possibility of several new sponsors on several of the boxes. In flowerbox-related matter, Dr. Powell mentioned the fact that several days previously, his father, Walter Powell, had donated approximately 100 napelagons to the Society for use in the project.

Mr. Klimkiewicz then gave a report on the JPA (Job Training Placement Act) program. He explained that while he will be employed for 10 weeks under the program, two other employees, Brenda Madlidge and Gerald Ruddy, will be employed by the Society for eight weeks. Both Ruddy and Madlidge will assist Mr. Klimkiewicz in cataloging, repairs, cleaning, maintenance, etc. Dr. Powell commented that the level of community involvement shown by the Society had surprised the JPA officials.

Mr. Essif then noted that the presentation of "The Once and Future City" on WJOL had been taped. Mr. Loftus stated that the film, which is a documentary on Scranton, had indeed been a very good one, as he had been watching it during the meeting.

Mr. Essif went on to say that he has been working on the readings of the Pioneer Minute scripts given to him by Mr. Jomaine at WJOL. He also stated that he has been selecting movies for the Society and made inquiry as to the number of films per each meeting.

Dr. Powell offered the suggestion that since the Spring Film Festival was a success, the Society should repeat it. It was decided that 2 August would be an appropriate date.

Dr. Powell then informed the members that the Internal Revenue Service had taken action on the Society's request for tax-exempt status. During their opinion on the judgement that the Society is not a private foundation, the IRS has thus decided that the Society does indeed qualify as a tax-exempt entity, and as such may now be considered a 501(c)3 corporation. This will be of extreme importance in allowing the Society to obtain grant money and donations, as well as relieving the Society from the burden of payment of Federal Income Tax. Mr. Jomaine noted that he and Dr. Powell had spent over 100 man-hours on the request, and the follow-ups supplying the additional information that had been requested by the IRS.

On the matter of Past Patterns, Dr. Powell gave a report on the matter, which for all intents and purposes, seems to be no longer of concern to the Society. It was

stated that should Past Patterns wish to examine any of the Society's holdings, they may do so, but that the Society would not contact them. Dr. Powell noted that the garments that the Society had originally submitted to the company had come from the Pascoe residence on Salton Avenue in Carbonate.

Mr. Cy Grosvenor then commented that the concern of Pascoe and Scurry had, at one time, been located at the corner of North Main Street and Salton Avenue (north-west side) in Carbonate, and obviously, the garments had been obtained at wholesale prices.

Mr. Grosvenor then went on to say that it is of utmost importance to give credit where credit is due. He explained that he had acquired his great knowledge of the Delaware & Hudson Gravity Railroad from Pearce Butler, who had been the last Master Mechanic of the Line. Mr. Grosvenor then spoke of the spur on the Honesdale Branch of the D&H which had been built to remove the fill from the level between the #3 plane and the #4 plane. This fill was then used in construction of the switchback at Panther Bluffs, which replaced Shepherd's Crotch.

Dr. Powell then asked of Mr. Grosvenor why there were no photographs of the area, particularly the stone arches which carried the creek under the fill. Mr. Grosvenor stated that his personal collections contained such photographs. He added that the fill that had been removed from the area had also been used in the construction of the South Canaan Loop.

Dr. Powell then commented on the significance of Mr. Grosvenor's having been informed on the navvily by Mr. Butler, and the importance of the navvily as an undertaking. He cited, in particular, the fact that the D&H was the first \$1,000,000 project in America, a fact which was reiterated by Mr. Grosvenor. Dr. Powell then opined that the general populace knows actually very little about the navvily.

Mr. Grosvenor then noted that Franklin Delano Roosevelt's father had made his personal fortune from D&H stocks. He also commented that he found it amazing that the original (1829-1841) level from plane #1 to plane #2 was still extant.

Mr. Grosvenor then proceeded to show several items from his personal collections, including a Service Flag from World War One, and a number of pins from the same era. He also displayed a knight's of Columbus postcard which was used by servicemen to write home postage free. He added that the Carbonate News will carry an article from his pen on World War One, and read an excerpt from the article. Dr. Powell then noted the fact that he had conducted a ceremony at Maplewood Cemetery on 4 July honouring the veterans of World War One.

Mr. Ray Robbins, of Carbonate, then showed a large number of paintings of a historical nature, including the original Miners' and Mechanics' Bank, the Steamship Lion, a Hudson Locomotive, a coal car, a 55 1 electric Locomotive, a Camelback, a Pennsylvania Locomotive, company houses, a steam drill in use, a continuous miner, a number of breakers (Lafkin, Dorance, Huber, Northwest, Moffat, Pittston and several unidentified), a number of railroad structures (D&H roundhouse, Carbonate, Central Railroad of New Jersey station, Scranton, D&H station, Delaware, Lackawanna,